

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A physical coding sublayer (PCS) device in a physical layer device of an Ethernet network device includes a multiplexer that aggregates data, which includes at least one of data portions and control portions, from a plurality of data streams into a multiplexed data block. An encoder encodes the multiplexed data block to produce an encoded data block that includes  $n$  data blocks. Each of the  $n$  data blocks includes at least one of data portions, pointer portions, and control code portions. The control code portions can be located within any of the  $n$  data blocks.

